

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 DLOS-04

IO-10 FEA-01 OES-03 AGR-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01 INT-05

/100 W

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R 221718Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SESTATE WASHDC 9822

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 6851

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, CO, VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH VENEZUELA

1. IN HIS JULY 20 SPEECH TO THE SENATE, LOPEZ TOUCHED ON RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA AND FOCUSED ON THE DISPUTE OVER WATERS AND THE UNDERSEA PLATOFRM IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA. HE EMPHASIZED COLOMBIA'S CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA AND REPEATED VERBATIM HIS REMARKS OF LAST YEAR IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE OVER REACHING ACCORD DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE. THEN, IN A NEW PROPOSAL, LOPEZ SUGGESTED A "JOINT POLICY" TOWARD THIRD COUNTRIES AND SUGGESTED THE SHARED EXPLOITATION OF THE GULF OF VENEZUELA.

2. THE PRESIDENT, SAID, "WHY NOT THINK ABOUT AND DECLARE TO THE WORLD ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT, IN ACCORD WITH AN OLD VENEZUELAN ASPIRATION, THE GULF OF VENEZUELA IS A HISTORIC BAY, A CONDOMINIUM OF THE TWO COASTAL STATES, COLOMBIA AND
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VENEZUELA. IN THIS WAY WE WOULD SUBSTITUTE THE CONFRONTATION

BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHILE SHIPS OF
OTHER FLAGS FISH IN THE REGION, FOR AN AFFIRMATION OF
OUR COMMON INTERESTS...FRUIT OF OUR JOINT EFFORT.
THE DELIMINATION OF THE AREAS, IN PROPORTION TO OUR
RESPECTIVE PERIMETERS COULD LATER BE ADDED INTO THE
SCHEME. AS I HAVE NOTED PREVIOUSLY, OUR CONDITION
AS A COASTAL STATE IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA DOES NOT
ALLOW THAT COLOMBIA BE EXCLUDED FROM THE NORTHERN PART
OF THE GULF". WHAT INCOMPATIBILITY IS THERE BETWEEN
THE DECLARATION OF A COLOMBO-VENEZUELA CONDOMINIUM IN
THE GULF AND A FUTURE DELIMINATION OF THE MARINE AND
SUBMARINE AREAS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE GULF?
3. COMMENT: THE PROPOSAL SEEMS AN IMAGINATIVE EFFORT
TO SHOW FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE SEA LIMITS DISPUTE WITHOUT
COMPROMISING PRINCIPLE OR FUTURE POSITIONS. PRELIMINARY
REACTIONS OF COLOMBIAN POLITICAL CIRCLES HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE.
END COMMENT.
VAKY

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